

## Scholarship Success Stories

### Lori-Louise Hubbard's Story

#### 2010 recipient of the AAUW Healdsburg Branch SRJC Scholarship

##### What Happened Next!

Quite some years back, you wonderful women of the AAUW gave me a scholarship while I was at SRJC. This is to let you know how things have been since you helped kickstart me into this life I love.

I'm Lori-Louise (was Lawrence, now Hubbard), and I was a re-entry student at SRJC at the age of 49, studying science in order to transfer into the Occupational Therapy (OT) program at Dominican University of California in San Rafael. I still remember standing in my kitchen reading your award letter and starting to weep because I was so moved by your belief in me. I thank you again, after all these years, for your generosity and kindness.

I spent five semesters doing math and science at SRJC. Entry to the OT program requires biology, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and physics, so my brain was full! I transferred as a junior to Dominican and completed their combined Bachelors/Masters program to get a B.S in Health Sciences and an M.S. in Occupational Therapy. I'm proud that both of my degrees are science degrees, because after all my years as a "word" person, I'm thrilled to learn that I'm also good at the hard sciences!

My plan was to go into pediatric OT, specifically to work with children with autism. That is a fascinating specialty, but as a result, there's not much job turnover in that field, so I went into Adult Rehab "in the meantime," and promptly fell in love with it. I have LOVED being an occupational therapist, and also became a rehab director in skilled nursing in a small enough facility that being the director was not only meetings and administration, but also included a great deal of direct patient care. During that time, I also accepted many pre-OT, OT, and OT assistant students, so I was able to pass on the things I'd learned in a real-life setting.

Six years ago, I moved up to the northwest corner of Washington, right on the coast about 20 minutes from the Canadian border, and immediately applied for a Washington State OT license. Up here has been a wonderful place to practice OT, and I stayed in the skilled nursing environment. About six months before covid hit, I stopped being an occupational therapist and transferred those skills into doing home care, specializing in end-of-life care. Since many of my clients have some degree of cognitive decline, it's easier to remember things that relate to childhood, so my business name is right out of a nursery rhyme: Old Mother Hubbard In-Home Care.

I've taken the gift you gave me and gone out into the world, helping heal the world one life at a time. Thank you for your early support and encouragement. I appreciate you so much.

-Lori-Louise Hubbard, in her own words

